In the divisions of Ahmednagar and Sholápur no expenditure was incurred on either buildings or repairs : and in the Poona and Sátára divisions Rs. 14 and Rs. 94 were spent on repairs to existing Forest guards' huts, &c.

50. The following statement exhibits the amounts charged to forests on account of the expenditure incurred by the several Divisional Forest Officers in the Central Circle in the construction of new roads and buildings and repairs to existing ones :—

Number.	Division.	Amount.	Remarks.
		Rs.	
1	East Khándesh	2,039	
2	West Khándesh	1,058	
3	Násik	46	
4	Ahmednagar	...	
5	Poona	14	
6	Sátára	94	
7	Sholápur	...	
	Total ...	3,251	

(*b*).—Protection of Forests from Injury.

(*1*).—*General Protection and Breaches of Forest Law.*

51. The prosecutions of forest offences instituted during the year numbered 1,972 against 1,658 of the year before. 1,716 cases involving 4,381 persons were disposed of, and 256 cases were pending at the close of the year. Convictions were obtained in 1,375 cases leading to the punishment of 3,359 persons, and 1,022 accused were acquitted in 341 cases which failed.

52. A comparative statement of the prosecutions of the year and of its predecessor gives the following information :—

No.	Division.	1893-94.		1894-95.		Percentage of Failures.	
		Prosecutions.	Acquittals.	Prosecutions.	Acquittals.	1893-94.	1894-95.
1	East Khándesh	62	8	150	26	12·9	17·3
2	West Khándesh	78	3	88	5	3·8	5·6
3	Násik	87	28	62	16	32·2	25·8
4	Ahmednagar	219	43	272	55	19·6	20·2
5	Poona	492	131	302	109	26·6	36·0
6	Sátára	441	56	767	109	12·6	14·2
7	Sholápur	58	26	75	21	44·8	28·0
	Total ...	1,437	295	1,716	341	20·5	19·8

A classification of the prosecuted cases evolves the following :—

No.	Division.	Offences relating to the misappropriation of				Total.
		(*a*) Timber.	(*b*) Firewood.	(*c*) Other minor produce.	(*d*) Other offences.	
1	East Khándesh	6	44	...	100	150
2	West Khándesh	34	16	4	34	88
3	Násik	6	21	...	35	62
4	Ahmednagar	2	15	37	218	272
5	Poona	21	26	14	241	302
6	Sátára	75	128	11	553	767
7	Sholápur	...	25	...	50	75
	Total ...	144	275	66	1,231	1,716

The increase in the numbers of East Khándesh division is due to the prosecution of owners of cattle who have persisted in illicitly grazing their animals, regardless of warnings previously given to them, to the detection of more offenders in stealing wood from reserved forests, and to the apprehension of smugglers bringing timber from foreign territory and attempting to evade the payment of duty upon it. The percentage of failures has slightly increased. The punishments awarded in the convicted cases were generally adequate.

The West Khándesh division exhibits too small an increase to require any special explanation; in 1892-93 there were 80 prosecutions in this division.

The number of prosecutions and the percentage of acquittals in the Násik division have decreased, but the proportion of failures is still very high: "want of proof" was the reason given. In one case the accused fled into the Nizám's territory.

The prosecution of offenders for deliberate cattle trespass after repeated warnings sent up the tale of prosecutions in the Ahmednagar division; about one-fifth of the cases failed for want of sufficient proof.

In the Poona division the prosecutions were chiefly for repeated illicit grazing. The percentage of failures has risen from 26·6 to 36·0 and this is attributed to the difficulty of proving to the satisfaction of the Magistrate, illicit grazing; and to several cases of setting fire to forests having been let off by the Magistrates of Mával and Mulshi on the grounds that as the forests were not directly fired but fire was communicated from ráb-beds outside the forest boundaries owing to burning material having been carried over by the high winds prevailing at the time, there was no offence committed under the Forest Act. Some extensive thefts of teak and other timber were detected in the Bibi forests of the Khed range and the Girávli forest of the Ambegaon range, and fitting punishment was awarded on the conviction of the offenders.

In the Sátára division the large increase is attributed to many cases of illicit grazing having been sent up to the Magistrates instead of being compounded.

The same cause led to a great number of prosecutions in the Sholápur division: it is satisfactory to note that the percentage of failures has fallen from 44·8 to 28·0.

53. Rewards were paid to the officers and informers through whose instrumentality conviction was obtained in the cases tried by Magistrates, in accordance with the rules published in Notification No. 5537 dated 18th October 1879, under section 75 of the Indian Forest Act, which direct the payment of one-half of the proceeds of fines and confiscations in all cases under the Act, and of a larger amount than one-half when the trying Magistrate considers it desirable that a greater reward should be given:—

No.	Division.	Amount of reward.	Remarks.
		Rs.	
1	East Khándesh	254	
2	West Khándesh	305	
3	Násik...	83	
4	Ahmednagar...	457	
5	Poona	584	
6	Sátára	2,589	
7	Sholápur	213	
	Total ...	4,485	

54. The number of cases compounded came to 1,458 against 926 in the year before; and the sums of money accepted by way of compensation for the forest offences amounted to Rs. 5,041 against Rs. 1,790 during 1893-94.

The following statement gives a comparison between the figures of the two years :—

No.	Division.	1893-94.		1894-95.	
		Cases.	Compensation.	Cases.	Compensation.
		No.	Rs.	No.	Rs.
1	East Khándesh	85	90	146	166
2	West Khándesh	4	22	221	713
3	Násik	94	333	271	705
4	Ahmednagar	369	607	50	99
5	Poona	195	620	736	3,293
6	Sátára	83	61	10	13
7	Sholápur	96	57	24	52
	Total ...	926	1,790	1,458	5,041

The classification of the compounded cases is as under :—

No.	Division.	Offences relating to				Total.
		(a) Timber.	(b) Firewood.	(c) Other Minor Produce.	(d) Other Offences.	
1	East Khándesh	2	97	7	40	146
2	West Khándesh... ...	33	47	45	96	221
3	Násik	53	147	38	33	271
4	Ahmednagar	17	30	1	2	50
5	Poona	34	110	11	581	736
6	Sátára	1	4	...	5	10
7	Sholápur...	...	9	...	15	24
	Total ...	140	444	102	772	1,458

The number of cases compounded has increased in the two Khándesh divisions. Detected cases of smuggling with the attempt to evade the payment of duty on timber brought from the neighbouring Native States, and deliberate instances of cattle-trespass, and minor thefts of wood have contributed to this result.

In the Násik division Section 67 was freely applied to detected forest offences of lesser gravity.

On the other hand in the Ahmednagar division there has been a decrease in the number of cases compounded, and the Divisional Forest Officer, Mr. Hornidge, explains this by stating that offences other than of cattle-trespass were only treated under Section 67.

In the Poona division the number of compounded cases exceeded that of the preceding year by 541; and the reason for this is that offences of lesser gravity were settled out of court. Of the 736 cases 578 were on account of illicit grazing in which the offenders were caught in the act of grazing cattle in defiance of the law. Compensation was fixed generally with regard to the rate of fees payable per animal under the grazing rules, double the amount of fees being accepted if the offence was committed at night, or if the cattle were found inside exploited coupes or in plantations.

In the divisions of Sátára and Sholápur the powers under Section 67 have been used to a very small extent; cases of cattle-trespass being sent up for trial by Magistrates.

55. The following statement shows the classification of the sums of money offered and accepted by the Divisional Forest Officer under section 67 in amounts of rupee one and upwards to the maximum permitted by law, as directed in Government Resolution No. 1899, dated 13th March 1891, in the Revenue Department:—

No.	Division.	Number of cases in which compensation was fixed at Rupees																								
		Re. 1 and under.	Rs. 2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
1	East Khándesh ...	110	12	10	5	3	1	3	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
2	West Khándesh...	128	37	12	8	8	3	3	3	3	2	1	1	1	1	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	2	...	...	2
3	Násik	137	61	19	16	13	2	4	4	1	6	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	2	...	...	...	...	...
4	Ahmednagar ...	25	14	3	3	2	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
5	Poona	167	157	94	67	65	27	27	29	21	22	9	11	6	3	5	2	2	1	3	5	1	1	1	...	3
6	Sátára	5	4	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
7	Sholápur... ...	11	4	...	4	1	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Total ...	583	289	138	104	92	38	37	37	25	31	10	13	7	4	5	3	2	5	3	8	2	3	1	...	5

No.	Division.	Number of cases in which compensation was fixed at Rupees																								Total.
		Rs. 26 and under.	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	
1	East Khándesh ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	146
2	West Khándesh...	1	1	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	221
3	Násik	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	271
4	Ahmednagar ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	50
5	Poona	1	1	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	736
6	Sátára	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
7	Sholápur... ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	24
	Total ...	2	2	...	1	1	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	2	1,458

56. All sums of money accepted by way of compensation by Forest Officers in the several divisions of the Central Circle under Section 67 of the Forest Act and received during the year were credited in full to Forests under "Receipts" *V.c*, in accordance with the system of classification of forest accounts, without any deduction having been made in respect of any rewards which may have been given to persons who may have contributed to the detection of the offenders in cases compounded.

57. The following statement exhibits the number of cases compounded and the number of cases in which rewards were paid, together with the amount of rewards, by Divisional Forest Officers, in exercise of the powers vested in them by Government Resolution No. 8568, dated 16th December 1887, in the Revenue Department, to persons who had contributed to the detection of these cases:—

No.	Divisions.	Number of Cases compounded.	Number of Cases in which Rewards were paid.	Amount of Rewards.
				Rs.
1	East Khandesh	146	.....	.....
2	West Khándesh	221	.....	.....
3	Nasik	271	.....	.....
4	Ahmednagar	50	.....	.....
5	Poona	736	321	410
6	Sátára	10	.....	.....
7	Sholápur	24	.....	.....
	Total ...	1,458	321	410

58. And the following statement shows the number of cases sent up to the Divisional Forest Officers for consideration under Section 67 of the Forest Act and their subsequent disposal, as directed in paragraph 11 of Government Resolution No. 1899, dated 13th March 1891, in the Revenue Department :—

No.	Division.	Number of cases sent up to the Divisional Forest Officer.	Number of cases disposed of under Section 67.	Number of cases let off with a warning.	Number of appeals against the proceedings.	Manner in which appeals have been disposed of.	Remarks.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	East Khándesh ...	497	146	351	...	...	
2	West Khándesh ..	277	221	56	...	...	
3	Násik	1,192	271	921	...	...	
4	Ahmednagar	2,572	50	2,522	...	...	
5	Poona	2,556	736	1,820	...	...	
6	Sátára	2,904	10	2,894	...	...	
7	Sholápur	1,809	24	1,785	...	...	
	Total ...	11,807	1,458	10,349	...	...	

59. The following statement gives the details of cases prosecuted and compounded by the several Divisional Forest Officers under Section 67 of the Forest Act during the year under report and in the preceding year, as directed in Government Resolution No. 3527, dated 2nd May 1884, in the Revenue Department :—

No.	Division.	Taken into Court.		Compounded.		Total number of cases.	
		1893-94.	1894-95.	1893-94.	1894-95.	1893-94.	1894-95.
1	East Khándesh ...	62	150	85	146	147	296
2	West Khándesh ...	78	88	4	221	82	309
3	Násik	87	62	94	271	181	333
4	Ahmednagar	219	272	369	50	588	322
5	Poona	492	302	195	736	687	1,038
6	Sátára	441	767	83	10	524	777
7	Sholápur	58	75	96	24	154	99
	Total ...	1,437	1,716	926	1,458	2,363	3,174

60. Many cases of detected forest offences were let off with a warning by the Divisional Forest Officer on account of their triviality or because the offenders were minors, or because it was a first offence : the following statement gives the score of these warning cases :—

No.	Division.	Disposal of offences.				Total.
		Prosecuted.	Compounded.	Warned.	Offenders undetected.	
1	East Khándesh ...	150	146	351	49	696
2	West Khándesh ...	88	221	56	143	508
3	Násik	62	271	921	164	1,418
4	Ahmednagar ...	272	50	2,522	130	2,974
5	Poona	302	736	1,820	362	3,220
6	Sátára	767	10	2,894	491	4,162
7	Sholápur ...	75	24	1,785	16	1,900
	Total ...	1,716	1,458	10,349	1,355	14,878

In the Poona division the figures include 29 cases which were time-barred under the six weeks' rule referred to in paragraph 75 of last year's report: 86 such cases escaped in the year preceding. The classification of the present 29 is as under :—

(*a*)	Injury to forest by fire ...	1
(*b*)	Illicit cuttings ...	8
(*c*)	Cattle-trespass ...	19
(*d*)	Other offences ...	1
	Total ...	29

A clasification of all the warned cases reads thus :—

No.	Division.	Classification of offences.				Total.
		Fires.	Illicit cuttings.	Cattle-trespass.	Other offences.	
1	East Khándesh ...	...	18	274	59	351
2	West Khándesh ...	2	4	6	44	56
3	Násik	1	81	826	13	921
4	Ahmednagar ...	...	54	2,466	2	2,522
5	Poona	8	168	1,628	16	1,820
6	Sátára	23	126	2,682	63	2,894
7	Sholápur	...	...	1,785	...	1,785
	Total ...	34	454	9,667	197	10,349

61. It will be seen from the returns given above that the total number of offences detected is 14,878 against 13,201 of the year before, the tale is not a heavy one considering that it concerns a forest area of 6,317 square miles spread over 38,390 square miles of country included in 7 divisions; the percentage of prosecutions on the detected cases is 11·5. Forest crime is practically confined to illicit grazing, petty thefts and firing forests through culpable negligence in the use of fire. The score of serious cases of stealing timber during the year does not run into double figures.

The Collector of Khándesh in forwarding the Administration Reports of the East and West Khándesh divisions remarks on the head of forest offences with reference to the former, "Prosecutions have more than doubled. But the number is still not large for such an extensive forest area:" and with reference to the latter, "Prosecutions increased slightly, but are still decidedly small in proportion to the area of Forests:" and so it is everywhere. Illicit grazing is the habit of the country, and the Forest Department does not suffer more under this evil than the private owners and occupiers of land do.

Protection from Fire.

62. The results of "Fire Conservancy" compared with those of the year preceding are exhibited in the statement :—

No.	Division.	Forest area placed under protection against fire in Acres.		Acreage burned.		Percentage burned.		Expenditure incurred in Rupees.	
		1893-94.	1894-95.	1893-94.	1894-95.	1893-94.	1894-95.	1893-94.	1894-95.
								Rs.	Rs.
1	East Khándesh ...	5,19,285	5,19,145	15,611	44,544	3·0	8·5	300	93
2	West Khándesh ...	11,03,502	11,03,953	89,735	1,38,981	8·1	12·5	1,036	769
3	Násik	8,18,701	8,18,975	5,141	8,119	0·6	0·9	97	216
4	Ahmednagar ...	5,42,030	5,42,895	1,194	2,445	0·2	0·4	3	...
5	Poona	4,54,917	4,57,025	5,293	7,239	1·1	1·5	611	921
6	Sátára	4,25,790	4,32,034	3,927	3,635	0·9	0·8	11	37
7	Sholápur	1,78,041	1,77,910	457	413	0·2	0·2	48	...
	Total ...	40,42,266	40,51,937	1,21,328	2,05,376	3·0	5·0	2,106	2,036